

**Hearst Magazines UK Annual Report**  
**1 January 2015 - 31 December 2015 (the "Relevant Period")**

Introduction

The National Magazine Company Limited t/a Hearst Magazines UK is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hearst Corporation and was founded in 1910 by William Randolph Hearst. Hearst Magazines UK publishes 19 brands, most incorporating a print and online presence. These brands are listed below. Online only titles are in bold.

**Hearst Magazines UK:**

All About Soap

Best

Cosmopolitan

Country Living

**Digital Spy**

ELLE

ELLE Decoration

Esquire

Good Housekeeping

Harper's Bazaar

House Beautiful

Inside Soap

**Netdoctor**

Prima

Real People

Red

Reveal

**Sugarscape**

Town & Country

Hearst has an average monthly print audience of 6,460,000 and an approximate monthly digital audience of 8,422,000.

The Responsible Person for Hearst Magazines UK is Anna Jones (Chief Executive Officer).

Our editorial standards

Hearst is a responsible publisher. It seeks to maintain a high standard of journalism and instils this in the editorial staff through regular training and updates.

Its editorial guidelines are available on the company intranet and staff are directed to this upon joining.

Hearst insists upon compliance with the Editors' Code and the relevant legislation. The legal team works closely with Editors and journalists to advise on upcoming publications. Staff submit content to the legal team for review prior to publication where any issues pertaining to the Code (or the legislation) may arise.

Hearst uses best practices to ensure that all content is accurate. Our journalists are required to verify all stories by checking facts using reputable sources. Further, all journalists must ensure that their

interviewees fully understand the purpose of the interview and consent to the publication of their words. Wherever possible, journalists are required to tape their interviews and keep detailed notes. Freelancers are also required to keep detailed notes and copies of all source materials, to be provided to Hearst on request.

Once completed, every article is subsequently reviewed and fact-checked by a subeditor. Finally, where an article is submitted for legal review, the legal team will seek further and sometimes additional clarification of facts and discuss the source of the content with the writer.

IPSO notices are circulated to all Editors when received.

Where Hearst receives pre-publication guidance from IPSO, the legal team will discuss the guidance with the Editors and journalists, and review the relevant content in light of IPSO's guidance. Where deemed necessary, the content will be revised. Hearst will also communicate any key learnings from IPSO's pre-publication guidance to its editorial teams.

#### Our complaints-handling process

Hearst uses a Complaints Form. The Complaints Form is available as part of our Complaints Policy which is available on all magazine websites and also on the central Hearst website (<http://www.hearst.co.uk/hearst-magazines-uk-complaints-procedure>). When an individual calls, emails or writes to make a complaint, they will be asked to submit the complaint in writing to [complaints@hearst.co.uk](mailto:complaints@hearst.co.uk) or directed to the Complaints Policy on the relevant website.

Once a complaint is submitted it is automatically directed to an electronic inbox administered by the legal team. An initial response is provided to the complainant, either asking for further information or acknowledging the complaint and explaining that it is being investigated. An investigation is then carried out by the legal team with the Editor and journalists in question before a full substantive response is provided to the complainant. We then work with the complainant to find a resolution.

Wherever possible, Hearst seeks to resolve complaints directly with complainants. However, where we investigate a complaint and in our view there has not been a breach of the Code, we are happy to refer complainants directly to IPSO.

#### Our training process

Editorial legal training is provided internally on an annual basis to the editorial teams. This training was provided in Spring 2015. Our 2016 training program is currently underway, beginning in February 2016, with further sessions scheduled for March and April 2016.

The training covers the Editors' Code, defamation, privacy and contempt of court law, as well as information and guidance on other relevant regulations and legislation.

#### Our record on compliance

During the Relevant Period, 2 complaints were referred to IPSO for adjudication (Holman v Best and Holman v Real People). Both adjudications upheld a complaint under clause 1(i) of the Editors' Code and in each case, the magazine in question published a correction. Following these adjudications and on consideration of the issues, Hearst determined that the right course of action was to discuss the outcome with the relevant teams within the business. This outcome did not impact staff training or necessitate any changes to Hearst's internal editorial guidelines.

3 additional complaints which raised issues relating to the Editors' Code were received, and were resolved informally with the relevant parties.

Hearst does not publish its editorial guidelines but is happy to make these available to IPSO on a confidential basis for its own review.

**Signed for and on behalf of Hearst Magazines UK by**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ANNA JONES", is written over a dotted line.

**ANNA JONES**